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FLOOR DEBATE

April 23, 2001      LB 405, 457, 667

within 60 days after recording the deed or other transfer instruments. The Department of Natural Resources would use the certificate to update water rights and water well filings. They would also establish a fee for the water resources update certificates, however, the fee could be no higher than the amount necessary to cover the costs incurred. In addition, AM1637 contains provisions of LB 457, which was introduced by Senator Baker. I would ask for your support for this amendment and yield the rest of my time to Senator Baker to introduce his portion of this amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members. And thank you, Senator Schrock. As he said, I...I...I don't want...I don't have too much to add to this. This was LB 457, my part of this amendment. What it does is allows for the department to issue or to file registration forms for the wells electronically. And, as he said, both bills, LB 405 and LB 457 allow the Department of water...or Natural Resources, now, to set a fee that is no higher than an amount necessary to cover the costs incurred for the processing of these notices. That's the first part of LB 457, dealing with electronic well registrations. The second part is dealing with pump installation and decommissioning water wells and, rather than have it open-ended for decommissioning water wells, it also...it...it puts the stipulation in here, in statute, that a pump installation contractor means so and so, and also includes decommissioning water wells, so that there are some standards for people who decommission water wells. To...to take care of an issue that Senator Jones had in committee, we added in there that an individual who installs or repairs pumps or pumping equipment for a water well, or who decommissions a driven sand point well is exempt from this. Now, a sand point well...and Senator Jones may want to talk about this, because they're up in his area more so than mine or Senator Schrock's, sand point-driven well is one they simply take and wash a piece of pipe down in the sand, usually not more than 20 or 30 feet deep at the maximum. And this...this eliminates the need for a registered decommissioning as such, if he has one. There is no casing, when they pull the pipe out the well collapses and it's